

**SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PROVIDING A DISTRIBUTED FILE  
SYSTEM UTILIZING METADATA TO TRACK INFORMATION ABOUT  
DATA STORED THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM**

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**Abstract of the Disclosure**

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The intelligent distributed file system enables the storing of file data among a plurality of smart storage units which are accessed as a single file system. The intelligent distributed file system utilizes a metadata data structure to track and manage detailed information about each file, including, for example, the device and block locations of the file's data blocks, to permit different levels of replication and/or redundancy within a single file system, to facilitate the change of redundancy parameters, to provide high-level protection for metadata, to replicate and move data in real-time, and so forth.

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